

Raise More Sheep--Alarming Shortage of Wool

Robert H. Moulton tells why farmers should give serious attention to production of this valuable live stock--Profits sure to be large for many years--demand exceeds supply



ALL the wool grown in the United States last year were made into pure, all-wool cloth, and the cloth were cut and divided equally among the men and women of the country, there would be about 44 square inches of such cloth allotted to each person; and if the present decline in wool production continues for a few years longer there will not be enough cloth to make a respectable breechcloth per capita.

Such was the declaration of a speaker before the recent wool and textile conference, held in Philadelphia. In a short paragraph this sums up, not alone the situation which we as Americans face, but which the whole civilized world is facing. The impending shortage of clothing is at hand.

For every 1,000,000 acres of land in the United States in 1900 there were 67 sheep, while today, with a steadily increasing demand for wool and mutton, the same area can boast of less than 60 sheep. The decline in numbers during this period has amounted to something like 9,000,000 sheep, although our population during the same period has increased 18,000,000 souls. Last season we clipped slightly over 42,000,000 fleeces, as against 44,000,000 for 1899, or a reduction of 2,000,000 in 15 years. Our population then was calculated to be 75,904,575, whereas it stands today far above the 100,000,000 mark, or a gain of about 26 per cent. In the past 15 years the wool production has decreased 4 per cent, thus leaving a difference between production and increased population a chasm of 30 per cent dividing it.

There are more than 20,000,000 men in Europe under arms, wearing out six times their normal consumption of wool. As the war progresses the available wool of the world is certain to be consumed to the last ounce. Cotton, linen, and other fabrics may be used, but wool will be used as long as it is possible to secure it for the fighting forces. But there is no real substitution for this. Cotton may serve the purpose during the summer; for winter campaigning, especially in Russia and the mountain districts, wool is necessary.

Aside from the tremendous demand for wool for warriors, which has been responsible for the present shortage, and which has brought the wool shortage down to hand-and-mouth proposition, there is a shortage in production. Australia, chief among wool-producing countries, is nearly 40 per cent short of her normal sheep supply because of a drought that killed sheep by the tens of thousands. But this country still has twice as many sheep as we have in the United States.

People living in regions demanding woollens

YUCATAN IS THE AMERICAN EGYPT

Scattered all over the Yucatan peninsula are monuments to a civilization that flourished thousands of years ago. Just how many thousand nobody knows and scientists differ very materially in their ideas on the subject. The prevailing belief, however, is that this civilization was in full swing as late as the beginning of the Christian era. Other scientists assert that the ruins antedate those of Egypt.

Yucatan can well be called "The American Egypt." The ruins of 172 cities, big and little, have been discovered and not a quarter of the territory has been explored, that is, carefully explored, for the tropical verdure makes the finding of them very difficult. You might pass within a hundred feet of a wonderful old temple or pyramid a hundred times and not discover it, so effectively does the jungle screen these crumbling monuments of the distant past and shield them from the prying eyes of this inquisitive and presumptuous age.

Of the 172 clusters of ruins discovered, two sets represent what were once large and prosperous cities, of about half a million inhabitants each. Doubtless at different times each one of these two cities was the capital of the country.

One of the cities is Uxmal, pronounced "Ush-mul," situated in the southwestern part of Yucatan, and the other is Chichen Itza, in the eastern part of the state. One is six miles away from the railway's end through the jungle and the other 18. In both cases the road leading out is little better than a trail and without question the roughest road that a wheeled vehicle was ever pounded to pieces on.

To my mind the most interesting ruin of all is "The House of the Dwarf" at Uxmal. It is a pyramid, with a temple on top where the priests made human sacrifices. The steps on one side are fairly well preserved. A double chain is run down them so that it is possible to reach the top if you have a cool head. Once there you crawl through a hole knocked in the temple wall and come out on a platform which was the sacrificial altar.

On that platform the priests stood and with knives of flint cut out the hearts of living victims and held the gruesome objects aloft, still throbbing, for the populace below to gaze at. In the great quadrangle at the foot of that side of the

pyramid the inhabitants of the city gathered to watch these festal doings. Fifty thousand people could stand in it. Around this huge court runs a palace, two stories high and beautifully carved, which was the home of the nuns, for whose special decoration these sacrifices were made. The nuns were the aristocrats of ancient Maya society.

On all four of the inner sides of this palace are carved two huge snakes, whose bodies are entwined as they twist around the structure. These snakes have human heads and tassels for tails. In all the ruins the carvings are of the same peculiar design. The patterns of the borders and the general ornamentation strongly suggest the Egyptian.

What is most wonderful of all is how they were able to cut those huge blocks of stone and then carve them so beautifully without metal hammers or chisels. There is no iron or other metal in the country and so all they had to work with was flint. How they raised the blocks into place none can explain. That remains as much of a mystery as the Pyramids of Egypt. This is used as an argument to prove that the same race of people did them both.

There are many more ruins standing at Chichen Itza than at Uxmal, but in both cities all the smaller structures and private houses have disappeared. The ages have worn them away or earthquakes shaken them down and the jungle has covered all. The natural accumulation of soil for centuries has also covered them many feet deep. The bases of the big buildings still in sight are, of course, below the present surface. Not much has been done in the way of excavating, for the government is only just turning its attention to these wonderful relics of the past.

The ruins have several feats in masonry work that are beyond our twentieth century architects, such as arches without keystones, leaning walls, round corners, hanging terraces, and so on. The walls are all enormously thick and the rooms rather small, even in the houses of the governors or kings, or whatever they were called. Most of these rooms are now inhabited by bats and are not at all pleasant places. There are no flat ceilings to be found. All are finished with pointed arches.—George Miner, in the Mexican Review.



AUSTRALIAN SHEEP RANCH



SHROPSHIRE SHEEP



SHEEP ARE MONEY MAKERS

tures of these historic animals.

Not only are wool values certain to increase, but maintain a steady and heavy market demand from all sides for a generation to come. The reasons are very apparent, namely: First, the wool-using population of the world has of late increased more rapidly than wool production. Second, wool's greatest competitor, cotton, has been in short supply relatively dearer than wool, especially coarse wool. Third, employment at high wages has been so plentiful that the masses have been in a position to buy clothes, and clothes made mostly of wool instead of cotton and shoddy.

There are nearly 50,000,000 fewer sheep in the world today than 15 years ago, and more than 100,000,000 more people

demanding wool. In the consumption of wool the United States is far and away in advance of either of the other great nations, for although somewhat behind the United Kingdom in the quantity required for her factories, all that is manufactured here is retained for clothing and other uses of our people, and, in addition, vast quantities of woolen fabrics are imported from abroad. A large percentage of the wool consumed in the factories of other countries is manufactured for export and sold for use beyond their borders, giving the United States pre-eminence as a wool-consuming nation.

The Mercado Central de Frutos, located at Buenos Aires, is the largest wool market in the world. This port and Bahia Blanca, the great southern Argentina port, handles practically all the wool grown in the republic. At shearing season wool arrives on ships and trains.

In 1873 the world's sheep population was something like 400,000,000 sheep, whereas today the number is approximately 630,000,000, of which Argentina has about one-sixth, being exceeded in numbers only by Australia, which has 83,000,000 to Argentina's 80,000,000. The United States has something like 55,000,000 sheep, Asiatic Russia 25,000,000. South America, all told, has more than 100,000,000 sheep, of which two-thirds are in Argentina. There are ten sheep to every man, woman and child, or an average of 50 sheep per family.

Western Canada is coming to be a great sheep country, and here, where millions of acres of grazing land adapted to sheep raising are found, exists one of the finest natural sheep-raising sections close to centers of mutton and wool consumption to be found in the world. The part Canada will play in answering the world's demand for woollens is certain to be important in the near future, for farmers have caught the inspiration resulting from steady prices and a heavy demand for meats and wools.

Our department of agriculture recently gave out a statement which reveals the real situation in facts and figures. This statement was to the effect that the production of wool in the United States in 1915 was 288,777,000 pounds, as compared with 290,192,000 pounds in 1914, and 296,178,000 in 1913. In other words, while we seem to have lost little in production as against 1899, we dropped off 7,000,000 pounds in these two years.

Promotion of increased production of sheep undoubtedly is our great economic problem. One of the paramount features regarding the present shortage in clothing is due to the universal lack of proper grading and caring for the wool from farm to factory. Although the United States ranks as one of the leading wool-producing countries of the world, thousands of pounds of good wool annually are permitted to go to waste because of the farmer's slackness in grading and preparing his clip for the market. The present educational program of the bureau of animal husbandry tends to remove this loss.

This means that the amount of wool imported annually by American manufacturers is equal to more than one-half of the home-grown clip. Foreign wool growers, Australians in particular, maintain a uniformly high-grade standard in the handling of their wools. This care in preparation for market has served to give that country a wool backed by a reputation that readily insures it full value at the time of selling to the manufacturer.

Our modern agriculture needs sheep, more sheep. We need sheep to meet modern practical conditions. Farmers can positively do nothing better than enter sheep breeding with a strain, say, like the Shropshire, which have gained the reputation of being adapted to any sheep-raising region of the continent, and being the "farmer's sheep, a rent-paying sheep, a tenant's sheep, a money-making sheep, wool-producing, mutton-carrying, quick-fattening and hardy sheep." This breed is not only an economical feeder, but, like other improved breeds, good soil conveyors. They are adapted to the most intensive system of agriculture.

Self-Defense.

"Going to take a vacation this year?"
"I guess so. I can't afford to, but I think I'd better knock off work for a week just to get rid of the people who insist on asking me when I'm going to, and where I'm going, and if not, why?"

IN THE LIMELIGHT

SLATED FOR HIGH ARMY COMMAND



Brig. Gen. Harry C. Hale was born in Illinois July 10, 1861 and appointed to the Military academy from that state in 1879. In 1883 he was promoted to second lieutenant and assigned to the Twelfth Infantry, in which arm of the service he has continued. During the Spanish-American war, while captain in the regular establishment, he was made a major of volunteers.

General Hale is one of the "war generals," and at the time of his appointment was in command of the Fifteenth Infantry stationed at Tientsin, China.

General Hale is considered an exceptionally fine infantry officer and trainer of men. He is a remarkable shot with both the pistol and rifle and wrote the Pistol Manual and Small Arms Firing Regulations for the army.

It is not the policy of the war department to announce the detail of officers in advance, but it is safe to predict that General Hale will be assigned an important post in Europe during the present conflict.

IN FIGHT FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Not daunted by recent reverses at the polls, the advocates of woman suffrage are again carrying their fight to the people in two Eastern states—New York and Maine. In New York state the question whether women should have the right to vote was submitted at a referendum in the general election two years ago, and answered in the negative on election day, with the adverse majority mounting nearly to 200,000. In Maine woman suffrage has its first test before the voters.

The voting in Maine is on a bill enacted by the legislature, subject to ratification at the polls, providing that women shall have the right to vote for presidential electors and for municipal and other local officials, but not for administrative state officials or members of the legislature. In New York a constitutional amendment which would wipe out the discrimination in the organic law will be submitted. If it is ratified women will have the right to vote for all officers, municipal and otherwise, at all elections in this state.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National Woman Suffrage association, has taken charge of the Maine campaign, and re-enforcements are being rushed to her aid from all parts of the United States.

As far as suffrage is concerned Maine is practically an untilled field. It is known as one of the most conservative states in the country. It has a large rural vote. Woman suffrage, generally speaking, is not a popular issue with the rural voter.



HEAD OF GREAT SHIPBUILDING PLANT



The great plant of the Bethlehem Steel company has received orders to stop making rails and automobile trucks and start turning out plates, shapes and machinery for steel ships. The work of making the necessary changes in machinery is being rushed day and night and will be completed in a short time.

When the plant is ready to manufacture ship plates it will operate in conjunction with the Sparrows Point ship yard of the Bethlehem Steel company, which it adjoins. The two concerns now control 2,000 acres, including five miles of waterfront property, and employ upward of 10,000 men.

Officials of the Bethlehem Steel company said that the plan to bring the steel works and ship yard into close co-operation would result in giving Baltimore, of which Sparrows Point is a suburb, the largest shipbuilding plant in the world. Before

November the combined industries will, according to officials of both, be turning out huge cargo steamers at the rate of one every three or four weeks. While 10,000 men are employed in the two plants at present 5,000 more could be put to work immediately were they available. Steel officials hope to have at least 15,000 workers keeping the great plant running 24 hours a day by October 1.

Speed records are being broken in erecting new buildings to house the machinery for making ship plates, while the surrounding landscape is dotted with cozy little dwellings in various stages of construction which will be occupied by the new army of workers. These little homes are being built by the Bethlehem Steel company, which rents them to its employees.

While the details of the plans for enlarging and developing its Sparrow Point holdings have not been made public officially by the Bethlehem Steel company, it is known the factory will furnish plates, shapes and machinery for ships under construction in the yards controlled by Charles M. Schwab.

ONE OF ARMY'S MOST VALUED OFFICERS

Brig. Gen. Clarence R. Edwards, commander of Northeastern department, was born in Ohio January 1, 1859, and appointed to the Military academy from that state in 1879. In 1883 he was appointed a second lieutenant in the Twenty-third Infantry and continued in that arm of the service until appointed chief of the bureau of insular affairs in 1906. During the Spanish-American war he was given increased rank in the volunteers.

General Edwards is one of the liveliest and most energetic officers in the United States army, and his rise has been most rapid. He first came into the limelight during the Philippine insurrections following the war with Spain, where he served as adjutant on the staff of Major General Lawton.

In 1906 he organized the bureau of insular affairs and was made its first chief, and was later military aid to President Taft, in which capacity he made himself one of the most popular officers in the army. He is the senior brigadier general in the army, but in the last two groups of promotions of general officers he was passed over in the elevation to a major generalship.

He was recently placed in command of the newly formed Northeastern department, with headquarters in Boston.

